

Page 4, line 11, delete "affected" and insert --infected--.

Page 8, after the period "." in line 4, insert:

--Thus, the invention includes a process for discerning false negative data or positive data in the identification of a target viral RNA sequence in a peripheral blood cell sample which process comprises:

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- (i) selecting said target viral RNA sequence;
 - (ii) simultaneously subjecting
 - (a) said sample and
 - (b) at least one synthetic RNA reference sequence which does not include said target sequence or which includes substantially more nucleotides than said target sequence or which includes at least about 20 nucleotides less than said target sequence

to polymerase chain reaction amplification under conditions appropriate to simultaneously amplify said target sequence if present in said sample and said reference sequence;

- (iii) denaturing the amplification product or products produced by step (ii);
- (iv) subjecting said denatured amplification product or products of step (iii) to hybridization conditions separately and sequentially with probes homologous to said target sequence and to said reference sequence,

each of said probes being removed from a sequence with which it is hybridized prior to the separate and sequential subjection of said amplification products to hybridization with another of said probes;